

### REMARKS

Claims 1-9 have been examined. Claims 4-7 were indicated as allowable. New claims 52, 61, and 68 correspond to claims 4, 6, and 7 rewritten in independent form. Claims 4 and 10-51 are cancelled. New claims 52-76 are introduced. No new matter is introduced.

### Rejections:

Claims 1-3, 8, and 9 were rejected as being anticipated by and/or obvious in view U.S. Patent 5,254,112. to Sinofsky et al. These rejections are now moot in light of amended claim 1 which recites a spot size adjustment device coupled to at least one of the first and second fibers.. Claims 2, 3, and 5-9 are also allowable as they depend from an allowable independent claim.

Additionally, new claims 52, 61, and 68 correspond to claims 4, 6, and 7 rewritten in independent form and are thus allowable. Along with the independent claims 52, 61, and 68, their dependent claims are also novel and allowable. Support for the new claims can be found in Figures 2a/2b and the associated text in the specification.

### CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for examination. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 08-1641 (Docket No. 39228-0018).

Respectfully submitted,

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**In the Drawings:**

Please amend Figure 1 to include a reference numeral for the laser delivery device 20.